

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers. Published by Ralph F. Cummings, Box 75, Fisherville, Mass., U. S. A.

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ALGER IS OUT

Ernest L. Meyer

Phila., Record

Another great American institution has been swept into the dustbin of time. I refer to Horatio Alger, Jr., concocter of the Pants-Presser-to-President school of fiction which inspired our youth of a generation ago.

A poll conducted by the Y. M. C. A. reveals that 80 percent of the young men and women questioned no longer believe that individual ability determines individual success. This belief was the foundation of the Alger type of romancing. Paul the Peddler and Pil the Fiddler, if you recall, climbed to the heights by virtue of work, thrift, a winning smile and a laudable weakness for marrying the boss' daughter.

Today, the Y. M. C. A. poll discloses, our youth regards the Horatio Alger formula for success with a wry smile of skepticism. They have, one might say, become Horatio allergic.

Disturbing Statistics

And with all good reason. The American Youth Commission has just issued a report showing that 4,000,000, or over one-third of the 11,000,000 unemployed in the United States, are between the ages of 15 and 24. The commission adds that not even a war boom could find places for this jobless army of youth, and it urges the Government to inaugurate a special program of public works to assist

those unable to find positions in private industry.

The proposal is sound, and of urgent timeliness. As the Youth Commission points out: "The continued pressure of unemployment on youth, in the midst of a war boom, would add to the danger of drifting into active participation in the war."

Investing for the Future

Statisticians have figured out that in the last war it cost the United States \$33,700 to kill one man. A fraction of that cost would rescue a victim from the war against want. It would moreover, be an investment for the future, not money tossed into the maw of Mars.

Municipal administrations also could help in assuring a livelihood for the millions of unemployed young men and women. Too often youth is not encouraged; it is exploited. Every year, for example, thousands of students—after a long and expensive course of training—graduate into the teaching profession. They seek appointments in the city schools. They are engaged, if they are lucky, as "substitutes." They have no tenure, no paid vacations, they are subject to call at odd hours like extras on a movie lot. Some of them are "permanent substitutes," doing full-time work at half pay. The city saves the difference. Thus economy is sweated out of the young pedagogic peons.

In other fields, professional and nonprofessional, the young job hunter is often offered coolie wages on the ground that he is "gaining experience." They grow old, in dead-end jobs, gaining experience.

It is no wonder that youth today refuses to swallow the copybook maxims of success which even in the lush years had only a dubious validity. Horatio Alger is dead. Phil the Fiddler has been supplanted by a nickle-in-the-slot gadget and the boss' daughter has gone abroad and married a slightly mildewed marquis.

GOODS OF NOTED WRITER BRINGS \$1000

Tom C. Harbaugh Was of
Blood, Thunder School

CASSTOWN, Ohio, July 8 (by the Associated Press).—Before a pitifully small collection of worldly goods stood a village auctioneer, in strident voice importuning a handful of country people to part with their dollars—thus starting the last chapter in the life of Tom C. Harbaugh, as fantastic an ending, probably, as he ever dreamed of when he was penning vivid fiction half a century ago.

Not very valuable appearance were these real possessions of Harbaugh. They brought only \$1000, but they were rich in famous names and associations of years ago.

In the days of Beadles' Dime Weekly, Bealdes' Half Dime Weekly, the Saturday Night, and such publications, the name of Tom C. Harbaugh was seen in most issues over a story of blood-curdling adventure, evolved, from a prolific mind in somnolent and peaceful Casstown.

His name and that of Nick Carter often were linked together as writers of a kind.

Volumes and volumes of sensational writing were turned out by Harbaugh, and at one time he was regarded as wealthy from the returns of his endeavors.

sawed-off shotgun and side arms held up the Burlington railway station today and escaped with seven mail pouches.

In Jesse James fashion they swooped down on the station, apparently informed in advance that two trains which preceded them by an hour had left pouches containing valuable mail. Among their loot were three leather bags, chained and locked, containing registered parcels such as business concerns use for the transfer of money.

Included in the loot were three leather bags, chained and locked, which authorities said might have contained some cash or negotiable securities.

Marshal Tom Spalding said, however, that there were no payrolls coming into town today and a cursory investigation led postal authorities to doubt that the bandits obtained any large amount of money.

The bandits entered Station Master A. G. Squires' office at 3 A. M. One held a sawed-off shotgun. The other held two revolvers.

"Put up your hands, brother, and keep your mouth shut," one ordered. "And turn your back—now!"

Squires complied. In three minutes, he said, they had the entire mail deposit of the two Burlington trains—one that reached here at 1:30 A. M. and the other at 2 A. M.

"It is certain to me," Squires said, "that they operated under a plan and at least thought the pouches left here early this morning contained big money."

"They meant business. I didn't have time, and I didn't care to take time, to get a good look at them. That sawed-off shotgun was the first I ever saw. It's a mean-looking piece of machinery. I didn't mind turning my back at all."

'JAMES GANG' RAIDS STATION, SNATCHES 7 MAIL POUCHES

Missouri Bandits Wait for Trains to
Unload, Cow Agent With
Sawed-off Gun

MONROE CITY, Mo., Nov. 18, 1939
(UP).—Two masked bandits with a

January 20, 1939

Dear Austin:—

You should be able to get together quite a story about the weekly story papers, and don't forget that a magazine of today "The Argosy" is the sole connecting link between those

old time weeklys and the present.

I suppose you know that the "Boys of New York" at the height of its popularity sold something like 1,500,000 copies a week and was the foundation of Frank Tousey's fortune which he lost in the end by sticking to his nickle novel publications.

About 1885, to try to get a "toehold" on the story paper field he established the "Champion Publishing Co.," and started "The Boy's Champion" and Harrigan & Hart's "New York Boys," later Dick & Stechers "New York Boys" and finally Leon Leroy's "New York Boys."

I know these were Tousey's Papers for they had the same large eight page, 5 column format and ran sagories by Howard Devere and Paul Braddon two of Tousey's pen names which he used exclusively in "Boys of New York" and his other publications. Also published a series of Handbooks similar to those issued under his own name and the "Champion Library."

You also should mention that "The Boys of New York" was reissued in England using electros sent over there under the title "Boys of London & New York" and ran for many years.

Was looking over a catalog of The Wide Awake Library and found over 200 titles that Tousey swiped from the "Boys of England" and other English boys papers of the period.

Frank Leslie also got his start by pirating serials from "London Journal" and Bretts "Boys of England" and "Young Men of Great Britain," yarns for Boys and Girls."

Yours,

G. S. Barton
Boston, Mass.

Dear "Bushie Tail:—"

Years ago there was published in Boston the "Yankee 5c Library"—I had one copy as a boy, a story of the Sewer gang's escape from Charleston State Prison. It was very wild and bloodthirsty and was adorned with an extremely crude woodcut cover illustration. Have you ever run across one of these?

Among my few remaining papers is a set of 45 nos. (complete) of "The

Monster Weekly" published by Chas. Shurey, London. Contains the first half of Turnpike Dick under the title Daring Dick—an old penny number highwayman "Dreadful" and the first part of "Spring Heeled Jack," the "Terror of London." Another serial is "Paul Jones the Pirate," another shorter penny number later. Purports to be the story of our own Paul Jones but makes him out a sad rascal and hangs him in the last chapter. This paper was one of the most peculiar mixtures of new and old stories that I've ever run into. Has several of Murray Gragon's stories stolen from some American story paper. The old penny dreadfuls I've mentioned and two or three new stories one of them being "To Avenge Majuba" a story of the Boer War which was then in progress.

If you'll look through your copies of Tousey's Libraries for 1911 you'll see the ad of "Boy's Life" published by one George S. Barton (your's truly)

It's too bad that we haven't more records of the men who really wrote Tousey's stories. The only one I really feel sure of is George G. Small, Tousey's partner. There was a woman who wrote a couple of serials for Happy Days "Albi Jackman" who should have (died of Starvation) tacked a Miss before her signature. Good yarns too. She also wrote for Family Story Paper etc. An account of these men's experiences would make interesting reading—wonder if any were Beadle & Adams authors under other names.

An English publisher started an English reprint of "Golden Hours" but after about 26 issues, stopped the American stories and began reprinting the Ching Ching Series and other of E. H. Burroughs stories—ran for about 85 nos. in all.

Yours,

Chief No Hair

NEWS ITEMS

George French is back in Bloomfield, N. J. again, after an all summer job up in Maine. While up there, he has picked up some very rare items for his collection.

Here's a new member of the great Happy Hours Brotherhood, the only dime novel organization of its kind in America. Clarence K. Howe, 937 Orchard St., Racine, Wisc.

Charles Austin was born Jan. 8, 1894
J. D. Hardin was born Sept. 6, 1873
Wm J. Benners was born Sep. 27, 1863
Reckless Ralph was born Jan. 4, 1898
Send in your Birthday for Publication

Terror of the Train Bandits. A fine story and account of the famous Sam Bass and his gang of Outlaws, by Eugene Cunningham, on pages 54 to 59, 105 to 108. Sam Bass was born July 21, 1851, and died July 21, 1878. A brave man Reposes in Death. Why was he not true? This tale can be found in "True Magazine," Aug. 1939. There are some fine articles running every month in this magazine.

We had a nice big surprise the other day, when we received a copy of Fred T. Singleton's "Peeps Into the Past," and its full of interesting articles, too. This is a magazine that every dealer and collector should have, as it is worth its weight in gold, chucked full of information of all kinds on the old time dime and nickel novels, story papers, libraries, penny bloods and dreadfuls, and what-not. 50c per copy or \$2.50 per year, and well worth it, too.

Fred T. Singleton is his name, and address—2000-B, Southwest Red Rd., Coral Gables, Florida.

There was a fine writeup on John T. McIntyre in the Philadelphia Record, for Oct. 8, 1939, and a fine smiling picture of himself.

Members and Subscribers of Dime Novel Round-up; there won't be any Birthday No. this year as I have not the time to get it to-gether, but will try and make the Christmas Round-Up real interesting for you all. Any one having articles or ads they would like to have in the December Number, send in right away, or, better still, to give every one a chance, instead of that, we'll make it a big New Years number. What do you say? Last couple of days Uncle Billie

Benners has never been so ill before. If any one has ever suffered, he has in the past 3 years, and he seems to be getting no better. Poor Billee.

Send for a copy of Saifer's Book Exchange List of dealers and collectors of old books, papers, novels etc. Subscription free to Feb. 1940. Saifer's Book Exchange, 142 South 11th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Laurana Sheldon, who is still alive, and was the author of the "My Queen" Weeklies that were published by Street and Smith in the early 1900's. She also wrote a good many stories in the Street & Smith's Boys of America, under the pen name of Richard Hackstaff, which one of her stories appeared in No. 1 Oct. 1901, Bob, the Shadow. She also wrote a few stories for Happy Days and Poker Chips. She also wrote several fillers in the Wild West Weekly, James Boys Weekly etc. Also a man named Pendexter in Narway, Maine, wrote some of the James Boys Weekly.

C. E. Mulford was the author of Hop Along Cassidy tales. His photo appears in one of the early 300's in Tip Top Weekly.

Sent in by George French

Lewis J. Gardner wrote under the pen names of Andrew Dearborn and Lewin J. Swift. In the old Beadles Dime Novels, yellow backs, he wrote two, "Scarred Eagle" and "White Serpint," and one in Munro's ten cent novels called "The Wabash Rangers. Sent in by Charles Jones.

DANGERS OF WILD WEST RECALLED BY OLD LETTER

The thin line between life and death, which men, who lived by the gun, trod in the wild west days, is vividly portrayed, and rather poignantly too, in a letter which has just come to light in Deadwood, S. D.

The letter was written by "Wild Bill" Hickok to his wife, Agnes, and

in now on display in the historical museum in Deadwood. Hickok is remembered as the deadliest man in the West with a .45, who threw fear into the hearts of all evil doers, and who came to his own end by being shot in the back by one Jack McCall, while he was sitting in a poker game.

Wild Bill's letter is as follows:

July 17, 1876.

"Deadwood, Black Hills, Dakota;

"My Own Darling Wife, Agnes—I have but a few moments left before this letter starts. I never was as well in all my life, but you would laugh to see me now. I just got in from Prospecting. Will go away again tomorrow. Will write In the Morning, but God nowse when it will start. My friend will take this to Cheyenne if he lives. I don't expect to hear from you, but it is all the same I no my Agnes and only live to love her. Never mind Pet, we will have a home yet, then we will be so happy. I am almost shure I will do well hear. The man is hurting me. Good by Dear wife. Love to Emma.

J. B. Hickok.

"Wild Bill."

The letter, it is said, was never delivered and is also said to have been the last one Bill wrote. The uncertainty of life at that time is found in the words of Bill, "My friend will take this to Cheyenne if he lives." Also in the line, "Will write In the morning, but God nowse when it will start."

Willard Jaffray

U. S. BARS AUTHOR'S WIFE

Hrs. Eric Maria Remarque Ordered Excluded at Ellis Island

New York, Oct. 27—(AP)—Mrs. Eric Marira Remarque, wife of the self-exiled German author of "All Quiet on the Western Front," was ordered excluded from this country today by the

Immigration Board at Ellis Island.

The Board challenged validity of her Panamanian passport, issued at Athens, Greece.

She immediately appealed to Immigration authorities in Washington.

UNFINISHED NOVEL

BY NAPOLEON PUBLISHED

PARIS, Nov. 21, 1939 (U.P.).—An unfinished novel written by Napoleon Bonaparte when he was 26 was published today by the Revue des Deux Mondes.

The manuscript, of only 13 pages, was penned shortly after Napoleon broke his engagement with Desiree Clary, who later married Marshal Bernadotte and became the Queen of Sweden. Experts describe the style as "promising."

Napoleon had cherished his first and only literary effort, taking the manuscript with him to St. Helena. It was purchased by the Polish autograph collector, Count Dzialinski, and published privately in Warsaw in 1929.

ZANE GREY ESTATE EARNS \$12,000 A YEAR

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 21 (A.P.).—Zane Grey, novelist and sportsman who died Oct. 23, left an estate which brings in an income of more than \$12,000 a year, attorneys said today. His will was admitted for probate.

His widow, Mrs. Lina Elise Grey, who was appointed executrix without bond, is the only beneficiary.

WILLIAM D. HARPER

William D. Harper, age 75, head of the paper distributing firm of W. D. Harper, Inc., and whose grandfather was one of the four brothers who founded the publishing house of Harper Brothers, died Saturday, Dec. 2, 1939., after a long illness.

FOR SALE

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JAMES MADISON

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New York, N. Y.

I have many of the following for sale: Pluck & Luck, Brave & Bold, Secret Service, Wild West Weekly, Liberty Boys, Work & Win, Do & Dare, Tip Top Weekly and Frank Reade Library. Also many others!

Roy E. Morris

221-6th. St., S. W.
Mason City, Iowa.

Wanted, the following Tip Top Weekly in fine condition, no parts missing. Must be reasonably priced for resale. Numbers wanted 14 to 96; 104 to 193; 201 to 396; 401 to 850. Also need much other material.

GEORGE E. MASTACELLO

2714 Bainbridge Ave.,
Bronx, New York City, N. Y.

Will pay up to \$1.00 for copy a Secret Service No. 726. Title—The Brady's and the Tiger Tamer, in good condition.

Also other unumbers of Secret Service originals or reprints. Large and small. Give unumbers, state condition of what you have for sale.

LEONARD C. LEIGHTER

89 Perkins St.,
Brockton, Mass.

Have a large assortment of odds and ends, such as New York Weekly, Appleton's Journal, St. Nicholas, Our Young Folks, Seaside, Old Sleuths Own, Franklyn Square, New York Mercury etc. etc., as they come, no two alike, price 10c each or 12 for \$1.

RALPH F. CUMMINGS

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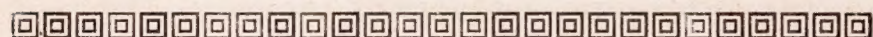
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